



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentencing

DEFENDANT: Bradley Paul Taylor, 28, Garner, North Carolina

Man Sentenced for False Distress Call to Coast Guard

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced that Bradley Paul Taylor, age 28, formerly a resident of Rochester Hills, Michigan, was sentenced today on charges of making a false distress call to the United States Coast Guard. Mr. Taylor was sentenced by United States District Judge Robert H. Cleland to a term of 24 months probation, with 4 months to be served in home confinement. Judge Cleland also ordered restitution to the Coast Guard of \$10,718, and a special assessment of \$100.

Mr. Murphy stated that "On the night of June 1, 2003, Mr. Taylor contacted the United States Coast Guard Station Belle Isle, Michigan, on VHF channel 16, the international hailing and distress frequency. In this urgent radio request for assistance, defendant Taylor falsely told the Coast Guard watchstander that his vessel was taking on water in Lake St. Clair and that he was about to lose the use of his radio. The Coast Guard responded quickly to this distress call by sending rescue boats from Coast Guard Stations Belle Isle and St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and launching a rescue helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Detroit. At the time he made this call the defendant was actually aboard a vessel that was docked at a Detroit area marina. As a result of this false distress call, the Coast Guard incurred search and

rescue expenses of at least \$ 10,718.”

In sentencing Mr. Taylor, Judge Cleland pointed out the risks and dangers associated with making false reports to the Coast Guard.

Captain Paul Preusse, Chief of Operations for the Ninth Coast Guard District, said “False distress calls not only cost taxpayers money and place U.S. Coast Guard members at increased personal risk, but more importantly, they divert limited resources from mariners who are in actual distress.”

Mr. Murphy commended the Coast Guard Investigative Service for its successful investigation in this case.